## CITY OF WASHINGTON, SUNDAY MORNING. DECEMBER 13, 1857.

PUBLIC DOCUMENT. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE

n presenting an exhibit of the operations of this at, attention is first invited to the important sined interests connected with the administra-ir public domain, respecting which the accom-report of the Commissioner of the General Land

he Supreme Court has said, in reference to acquired is, that "the people change their sovereign, their to property remains unaffected by this change." sequently, when the United States succeeded to the ership of that portion of our territory derived from ties with foreign powers, the first and paramount duty he disposal of the public lands was to separate private

in the disposal of the public lands was to separate private from public property.

In obedience to this well-settled principle of public law, and under the special obligations of treaties, the United States have established boards of commissioners, conferred powers on registers and receivers, opened the courts of the United States for the adjudication of foreign titles, and in multitudes of cases confirmed such titles by special acts of legislation.

These classes of titles are known under the cases in de-

and in inductates of cases confirmed such titles by special acts of legislation.

These classes of titles are known under the generic description of "private land claims," and are of every species, from minute parcels in the form of lots in Spanish towns to rural claims, ranging in size from one hundred arpents and less to a million and a half of acres.

These titles are of British, French, Spanish, and Mexican origin, all depending for validity on the colonial laws of their different sovereignties. And there is no branch of jurisprudence where greater research and extent of legal erudition have been displayed by our judicial tribunals than in the determination of the intricate questions which have arisen, been discussed, and judicially determined in connexion with this branch of the service. These foreign claims are of every diversity of shape, and everysavided by the colonizing governments of Europe, to the effect that the absolute title was in the United States, subject only to the Indian right of occupancy, and with the unconditional privilege of extinguishing that right. Under the operation of these principles, the purchase and extinguishment of the Indian right has been gradugressing in the ratio in which hands in Indian oc-were demanded by our people for settlement, and have the lines of the public surveys been car-preparing the way for homesteads, and the means

The surveying system is now organized into twelve diftofore stated, is. 1,450,000,000 acres. of this there have been surveyed and prepared for market, of net public lands—that is, exclusive of school

Of which quantity 57,442,870 acres have never been offered, and are.

nave never been onered, and are, consequently, now liable to public sale; in addition to which, there were upwards of 80,000,000 acres subject to entry at private sale on the 30th September Of the public domain, there have been disposed of by

peen surveyed and reported to the extent of 22,889,461.00 acres. During the same period 21,160,037.27 have been disposed of as follows:

For cash 5,300,550.31 Located with military warrants 7,381,010.00 Returned under warrants 7,381,010.00

In order to remove all doubt in the construction of existing law; pre-emption privileges should also be extended to alternate reserved railroad sections, in cases where settlements have been made after the final allotment. The enhanced value of such lands presents only a stronger reason why preference should be given to settlers over all others.

The mode of disposing of the public lands under existing legislation is simple, uniform, and complete. Lands are introduced into market and opened to free competition at public sale by the President's proclamation, which, at the same time, notifies settlers to come forward and secure their homes at the minimum price without risk of competition at public sale. Then such lands as remain thus undisposed of are open to free purchase at private sale, at the ordinary minimum of \$1.25 per acre, or when in market ten years and upwards, at reduced prices: when in market ten years and upwards, at reduced prices always, however, with the preference right of purchase awarded to the actual settler.

awarded to the actual settler.

The public domain is the property of the United States, and the individual citizens thereof have equal rights of purchase. Actual settlers, as already shown, are amply protected by law from interference, and efficient safe-guards are thrown around their rights. As an evidence of this, it is estimated that in the sales of the last year three-fourths of the sold and located lands were taken for actual artitlement. Laws districts of the rables

of fees collected. The General Land Office has decided, and the decision has been sanctioned by the department, that, in view of the limitation as to maximum, in the act of 20th April, 1818, and the terms of the 2d and 3d s

may be called for in the premises.

The interesting communication, which accompanies this report, of the late secretary of the Territory of New Mexico, respecting the mineral resources of that distant Territory, suggests the propriety of providing for a geological survey thereof. It is not doubted that vast quantities of gold and silver, copper, lead, and iron ores are to be found imbedded in its soil; and their discovery

prosperity.

The report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs furnishes an interesting view of a peculiar people, with whom this government holds the most complicated rela-

The members of the Indian tribes within our limits. be termed foreigners. "Domestic dependent nations, their relations to the United States resemble those of a their relations to the United States resemble those of a ward to his guardian. They look to our government for protection, and appeal to it for relief to their wants." While we negotiate treaties with them, which are ratified with all the solemnity befitting a contract to which na-tions are parties, we undertake to construe and execute with all the solemnity befitting a contract to which ma-tions are parties, we undertake to construe and execute their provisions, acknowledging no responsibility but such as we may owe to truth, honor, and justice. As the lim-its of our civilization have been extended, the number of these children of the forest with whom our people are brought into immediate contact is greatly increased. Treaties multiply: rights are acquired; mutual obliga-tions are assumed; obedience is promised on the one Treaties multiply: rights are acquired; mutual obliga-tions are assumed; obedience is promised on the one part; protection is guarantied on the other. The Indian bureau is grown to be a great foreign office, conducting the correspondence and adjusting the relations of more than sixty interior governments, while it is at the same time charged with the control, regulation, and protection of the rights of the individual members of those govern-ments. nents.
In the performance of these duties questions are pre-

For cash—
Located with military warrants—
5, 300,550.31

Located with military warrants—
7, 331,010.00

Returned under examp land grant—
5,360,050.31

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cash sales 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on cases of this diminution, the fact demonstrates that 1 one case 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on the case 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on the case 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on the case 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on the case 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on the case 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on the case 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on the case 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on the case 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received on the case 1 — 5,116,000.00

The amount of money received o

duction. The two great difficulties to be encountered in effecting the civilisation of the Indian are his imparience of restraint and his aversion to labor, and these are not to be overcome by abstract teachings. He must be taught practically, if at all, the immense superiority of a settled over a roving life, and the value and dignity of labor. This the colonization system appears to be accomplishing, and it is certainly the most effectual and economical plan yet devised for his reclamation.

The Indians along the west bank of the Missouri, those of Kansas, and the four great tribes occupying the territory west of Arkansas, form a third class, differing in many particulars from either of the others. Generally true and reliable, they constitute a people for whom we justly feel the deepest sympathy and the greatest solicitude. The degree of civilization to which these tribes have attained varies greatly in different localities. Some of them steeped in ignorance, thoroughly degraded, seem, in their contact with our people, to have lost the rude virtues that characterized them in a savage state, and acquired from civilization only its vices. Others have rapidly advanced, socially, norally, and in the knowledge of the useful arts, until they have become fit to be recognised as citizens. Here and there is found one whose talents, attainments, and integrity, constitute him an ornament to his race, and, while he challenges our admira-

edge of the useful arts, until they have become fit to be recognised as citizens. Here and there is found one whose talents, attainments, and integrity, constitute him an ornament to his race, and, while he challenges our admiration and respect, furnishes practical evidence of the capacity of the Indian for high civilization.

When those tribes who once resided east of the Missispip river were induced to leave the graves of their fathers and emigrate to the west, the Congress of the United States gave them a solemn pledge that the country where they now reside should be forever "secured and guarantied" to them. The westward march of emigration, however, has overtaken the Indian, and now begins to press upon him, and it is evident that a critical period in his history has been reached. To attempt his removal still further west is impracticable. The country is unsuited to his wants; it has no sufficient supply of wood or water, and a removal there would but be the means of hastening on his bitter fate. Where he now is the must make a stand and struggle for existence, or his doom is sealed. If he cannot adopt the habits and rise to the level of his white neighbor he must pass away; and the necessity of devising some policy which shall meet the emergency presses itself upon the government at this time with peculiar force. So far as the Indians of the central and northern superintendencies are concerned, the question is especially embarrassing. Treaties have within the last three years been negotiated with most of these tribes, by which their lands, with the exception of small reservations, have been ceded to the United States. Other treaties have been made, by which individual reservations have been made, by which individual reservations or the indian. The result has been disastrous, Tres-passed upon everywhere, his timber spoiled, himself threatened with personal violence, feeling unable to cope with the superior race that surrounded and pressed upon him, the Indian proprietor has become disheartened. Many of them have abandoned their reserves, and still more desire to sell. These Indians now ask for patents, as they have a right to do, for their selections. The treaties yest in Congress the newer of neviding for their as they have a right to do, for their selections. The treaties vest in Congress the power of providing for their issuance, "with such guards and restrictions as may seem advisable for their protection therein." There can be no doubt that our people will succeed in getting possession of these homes of the Indians. If Congress shall fail to act, and thus open no door by which the Indians can divest themselves of their titles, it may be apprehended that unscrupulous men will, without law, obtain possession of their lands for a trifling consideration, and stand the chances of an ultimate title. The interest of the reserves requires the passage of a law regulating the alienation of his right to his land, and securing him the payment of a fair equivalent for the same.

in the way of annuity, is large; but experience has shown that the system heretofore pursued, of paying them in money at stated periods, has been productive of

may hereafter make such provision by law as experience shall prove to be necessary."

If Congress, in the exercise of this power, should clothe

this department with some discretion in the payment of annuities, so that the same could be used as a means of their moral reform and elevation, instead of the injurious system now prevailing, of distributing money per capita, decided advantages may be reasonably anticipated.

The plan which has suggested itself as the most likely to arrest the demonlization now rapidly increasing, and, at the same time, lay a solid foundation for their ultimate

They should be gathered on smaller reservations and in denser settlements. They must be familiarized with the idea of separate property by encouraging them to erect houses as homes for themselves and their families. For this purpose the reservations should be divided into farms of suitable size, and distributed among the indiratins of suitable size, and distributed among the indi-viduals of the tribes, to hold, in severalty, as their sepa-rate and private estate, but without the power of selling, mortgaging, leasing, or in any manner allemating the same, except to members of the same tribe with them-selves. Settlements by white men within the reserves should be prohibited, and the prohibition rigidly enforced; and increased efforts should be made to suppress the sale and increased efforts should be made to suppress the sale of ardent spirits, to effect which the co-operation of the Indian authorities should be secured. Farms should be established in central positions, at which all the children of the tribe should be collected and required to labor, and where they could be taught the rudiments of an education. A certain portion of them should be apprenticed to useful trades, and the surplus of the proceeds of their labor, whather on the form of the trades in the section. improvidence and idleness. Implements of husbandry, blankets and clothing, useful articles of furniture, books, and, indeed, everything which promises to give comfort to their homes, should be purchased and divided per

to their homes, should be purchased and divided per capita.

Should their income be more than sufficient to meet the outlay required for these purposes, then the remainder might be paid in money. Now, the annual indiscriminate distribution of their national funds among the Indians is gradually working their ruin; whereas a wise policy, such as any parental government should adopt, would necessarily produce the happiest results.

should adopt, would necessarily produce the happiest results.

The details of the system should, of course, be modified to suit the varied conditions of the several tribes; but the uniform application of its leading ideas to the government of the tribes in the central and northern superintendencies is, I conceive, indispensable.

The condition of affairs in the southern superintendencies.

The condition of affairs in the southern superintenden-cy presents a gratifying spectacle. The four great tribes of Choctaws, Chickasaws, Cherokees, and Creeks, with the kindred band of Seminoles occupying the territory west of Arkansas, have steadily improved in morals, in education, in the comprehension of, and respect for, the rights of persons and of property, and in a knowledge of the theory and principles of government. They have the rights of persons and of property, and in a knowledge of the theory and principles of government. They have regularly-organized governments, constructed upon the model of our own, State constitutions, governors, legislatures, codes of laws, and judicial magistracies to expound them. There the path of duty is plain. Every encouragement should be held out to them to persevere in well-doing, until the period arrives when, ripe for citizenship, they shall be admitted to the full enjoyment of all its rights and privileges.

One grievance, however, to which they are subjected, and of which they justly complain, deserves the consideration of Congress. While the constitution, laws, and treaties of the United States are in force over this territory, there is no local tribunal empowered to take cognizance of the causes which arise under them; which, therefore, are sent for trial to the United States district courts in the State of Arkansas. This not only causes

courts in the State of Arkomas. This not only causes great expense and inconvenience to the suitors, but, in criminal cases especially, interferes with the impartial administration of justice. A Choctaw or Chickasaw, accused of an offence against the laws of the United States, is hurried away from his friends, to be tried at a remote mediate direction.

observation, our numbers, see our improvements, and es-timate our strength. They would readily conclude that further hostility would be absurd; and when they carried

Such an appropriation would be, in my judgment, an actof true economy.

During the past year a large amount was paid into the
treasury of the United States on account of moneys belonging to certain Indian tribes. The several treaties under which this amount was derived devolved upon the
President the duty of causing it to be invested in some
"safe and profitable stocks," to be held by the Secretary
of the Interior in trust for the respective tribes. In pursuance of your directions, these Indian trust funds were
invested in State stocks which were deemed safe and
profitable. The amount of bonds purchased was \$1,481,profitable. The amount of bonds purchased was \$1,481, 476 03, costing \$1,291,077 49.

sual financial embarrassment, we were enabled to make a profit of \$190,398 54 for the Indian tribes, and at the same time to afford relief, to some extent, to the business

The report of the Commissioner of Pensions presents The report of the commissioner of relations presents a satisfactory view of the operations of that bureau during the last year. The business of the office has been brought up to date, as nearly as it is practicable; and the large clerical force, required to despatch the heavy labors devolved upon it by the recent laws granting bounty land, has been reduced, so as to conform to the present exigencies of the office. cies of the office.

cies of the office.

For some years past the practice has prevailed of paying to the children, and sometimes to the administrators of deceased revolutionary soldiers and their deceased widows, the amount of pension to which such soldiers or widows, would have been exitted bed they preceded in to grandchildren, as such. At the last term of the Su-preme Court it was decided, in a case involving the dis-tribution of certain pension moneys which had been paid to an administrator for the exclusive benefit of the child-

ion I concurred; and as there was no law for the payment of pensions in such cases, and as no money could
be drawn from the treasury without a previous appropriation, any payment ordered by me would have been
against law, and would have amounted to a naked act of
legislation by an executive officer. I felt no hesitation,
therefore, in ordering a discontinuance of the practice in
question, and all the cases coming within it will be indefinitely suspended, unless Congress shall pass a law giving
to children and grandchildren the pensions their deceased ancestors would have received had the proper
proof been made out during their lifetime.

A pension is a bounty given by government for meritorious personal service, and the first law granting pensions for revolutionary services confined the bounty to the indigent soldiers. But, whether this restriction be correct or not, it is self-evident that the great inducement, in all pension laws, is to relieve and compensate, in his own proper person, the self-sacrificing soldier, who risked his life, wasted his energies, and neglected his private affairs in the service of his country. The law has extended its beneficeance from the soldier to his widow, and there it has stopped. If Congress shall take one step further, and provide for children and grandchildren on account of the services of their necessary.

stopped. If Congress shall take one step further, and provide for children and grandchildren on account of the services of their ancestors, the question arises, why take care of the children and grandchildren of those whose fortune it was to live till Congress had passed a pension act, and not of those, equally meritorious, who died in the service, or who dragged out a miserable existence uncared for and unrecognised by the government?

The children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren should be contented in the rich inheritance derived from a glorious ancestry, in the liberties they enjoy, and in the institutions which give them protection. Congress has not been unmindful of our revolutionary heroes. It has dealt out to them with no sparing hand. Up to the 30th June, 1857, under the pension laws of 1818, 1828, and 1832, \$43,011 960 had been paid to revolutionary soldiers; and under the acts of 1836, 1838, 1848, and 1853, \$18,302,660 had been paid to the widows of our revolutionary soldiers—making an aggregate, in money, of sixty-one million three hundred and fourteen thousand six hundred and twenty dollars, besides large domations of land and disbursements of money, under other laws, on account of revolutionary services.

The discriminations pointed out by the Commissioner of Pensions as existing between the invalid and half-pay pensions for the surmy and the navy would seem to demand revision and correction by Congress. Some reorganization of the systems upon which those pensions are granted is desirable, not only because of the inadequacy of the lower rates to relieve the wants of those intended to be benefited, but because of the manifest propriety of making like provision for those of corresponding grades

of the lower rates to relieve the wants of those intended to be benefited, but because of the manifest propriety of making like provision for those of corresponding grades in the two arms of the service who may become disabled while in the fathful discharge of duty.

During the past year 41, 483 warrants for bounty land have been issued, requiring to satisfy them five million nine hundred and fifty-two thousand one hundred and sixty acres of the public domain; and the number issued under all the bounty-land acts of Congress from the revolutionary war to the present time is 547,250, requiring to satisfy them sixty million seven hundred and four thousand nine hundred and forty-two acres of land.

satisfy them sixty million seven hundred and four thousand nine hundred and forty-two acres of land.

The frauds practised upon the Pension Office in attempts to procure, and in the actual procurement of land warrants, are numerous; but, owing to the short statutory limit of two years, the frauds are not discovered, and many guilty persons escape. I would, therefore, recommend an extension of the limit now made by the law for the prosecution of offences of this kind.

The Commissioner of Pensions has called my attention, also, to the fact, that the forging of land warrants is rendered penal by no existing law. The extent to which this evil practice exists is not known, but the importance of some legislative action upon the subject is obvious, and I would respectfully recommend that Congress provide some law which may serve as a protection to the government.

The District of Columbia has been set apart for the capital of the nation, and the relations of its people to the general government are altogether anomalous. Without a representative in Congress, and with no voice in the election of their Chief Magistrate, so far as political rights are concerned, its inhabitants occupy the attitude of a dependent people. But they are nevertheless American citizens, and, as such, have rights and interests which are dear to them, to guard which facilities should be afforded them, as to every other portion of our fellow-citizens, of making known their wants, through their own representative, to the only body clothed with the authority to supply them. There can be no just reason for the distinction which has heretofore prevailed—allowing a Territory, with a meagre population, a delegate upon the floor of Congress, to make known its requirements and advocate its interests, and denying the same privilege to this District, with its seventy-five thousand inhabitants. It would be an act of justice to provide a seat on the floor of the

In the act to incorporate the city of Wash

consent of the President of the Check state, and splanes in said city not interfering with private rights.

In conferring these powers upon the corporation, Congress must have acted on the conviction that it was the duty of the city, and not of the general government, to open and repair streets and avenues, as well as to make the other throughout indicated.

of Public Buildings is directed to reimburse the corpora-tion a just proportion of the expense incurred in opening and improving streets passing through and along public squares. This expense has been heretofore defrayed out

ed. But while much has been accomplished, more re-mains to be done; and liberal appropriations might, with propriety, be made for the continuation of these improve-

siments whenever the condition of the treasury will admit of it.

The first to the favorable consideration of Congress, in the loop that early measures may be talent to relieve them of their present uncomely appearance. The time has come when some plan should be agreed upon for their extention to be determined by congressional action.

The pass will be a specified by the present uncomely appearance. The time has come to be determined by congressional action.

The pass will be peace within the city of Washington. It is members are paid from the public treasury, through the Commissioner of Public Buildings, but devis their appearance of Public Buildings, but devis the same appointments, before they can take effect, to be reported to, and appearance of the power mental proper the public treasury, with each somi-named return, and appearance of the company of the public treasury, with each somi-named return, and appearance of the power mental properties of the supervisor of removal from office whenever, in his opinion, the public good may reader it necessary.

The reports of the superintendent and the local of viributes of the government longitude for the power of removal from office whenever, in his opinion, the public good may reader it necessary.

The reports of the superintendent and the local of viributes of the government longitude for the power of the public treasury and th

se-PostMasters are authorized to act at our agents; and by sending us sure Dall.Y subscribers, with \$50 enclosed; or says STMI-WEEKLY subscribers, with \$25 enclosed, will be entitled to a copy

1st auxitor

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

The report of the engineer in charge of the construction of the bridge across the Potomac at Little Falls exhibits the progress of that work, and the probability of its early completion. There have been unavoidable delays, which are explained, but the work, when finished, will be creditable alike to the engineer and the government.

By a joint resolution of the last Congress the duty was devolved upon this department or distributing a portion of the journals and congressional documents to public libraries, &c., previously distributed by the Department of State. As the resolution prescribed no rule by which the distribution should be made, it is proposed to send to each, State copies in proportion to its federal representation, and the distribution will be made en that basis, unless Congress shall otherwise direct. It is respectfully suggested that a law be passed for the future government of the department belongs the supervision of the accounts of marshals, district attorneys, and clerks of the circuit and district courts of the United States, and no other branch of the public service is encompassed with greater difficulties in its administration. In some respects advantageous changes might be made, and additional logislation is recommended.

By the act of February 28, 1799, fees for services rendered by district attorneys in the performance of their duties were specifically prescribed, and in certain districts named an annual salary was provided, "as a full compensation for all extra services." All district attorneys, except the one in southern New York, now draw a salary, the greater part of them at the nate of, and none less than, two hundred dollars per annum. But the repeated applications for compensation for extra services by these officers is becoming a serious evil.

cations for compensation for extra services by these offi-cers is becoming a serious evil.

Some of the district attorneys assume that they are un-der no official obligation to render any service for the government for which no see is prescribed under existing laws, such as preparing a case for trial, procuring and ex-amining witnesses, examining title to property purchased for the use of the United States; and they insist, as a matter of equity, if not of strict legal right, that they are entitled to compensation for all professional services other

I recommend an increase of the salaries of the respective district attorneys, graduated by some equitable rule, coupled with a provision devolving upon those officers the duty of faithfully performing all such services, in the line of their profession, as should be required of them in every case in which the interests of the government are in any way involved, and declaring that the receipt of such salary shall operate as a full discharge of all claim on the part of the recipient for compensation for all services not enumerated in such fee bill as may at the time be in force.

Experience has demonstrated that a change may be made with propriety in the law providing for the appoint ment of clerks of the several United States courts.

These officers are now appointed by the judges, to whom alone they are responsible for their official conduct. The law requires them, semi-annually, to make returns of their fees and emoluments. But, in case of failure or refusal, this department is powerless to enforce obedience, or to remove the delinquents. It can, however, withhold any money that may be due them by the United States until they shall render their accounts. This is the whole extent of its power.

It is made the duty of this department to restrict the expenditures of these officers within proper limits, although defrayed out of the proceeds of their offices; to allow no one clerk to retain of his fees and emoluments a sum exceeding three themsand five hundred dollars per annum, for his personal compensation; and to require him to pay into the treasury of the United States, semi-annually, any surplus of the same. A duty is thus imposed upon the head of the department, while he is clothed with no adequate authority to enforce a compliance with his orders and requirements. As an evidence of this, it is proper to state that, in order to answer a resolution adopted by the last House of Representatives, circulars, calling for the requisite information, were addressed to all these officers on the 1st of September last, and, although proper commendation is due to those who recolied promotily, vet fourteen in the States, and ninetees and, although proper commendation is due to those who replied promptly, yet fourteen in the States, and ninetees in the Territories, have wholly failed to respond thereto some remedy for this state of things should be provided.

Some remedy for this state of things should be provided, and it is respectfully suggested, as the most effectual, to change the tenure of the office, so as to require all the clerks of all the courts to be appointed in the same manner as marshals and district attorneys.

Clerks of courts, in many cases, are appointed and act as United States commissioners. This practice, it is believed, adds largely to the expenses of that branch of the public service, especially in the large cities, where it becomes necessary, in the absence of the clerk, to employ an additional number of deputies in his office. This evil requires correction at the hands of Congress.

The clerk of the Supreme Court cannot, by the received construction of the law, be required to make a return of the fees and emoluments of his office, nor is his compensation limited; yet the policy and spirit of the law includes this officer as well as the clerks of the circuit and district courts. If the existing law be wise and ought to be maintained, then no valid reasons exist why this officer should be made an exception.

future improvement, are approved and commended to your favorable consideration.